



Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

April, 1966

Vol. 34, No. 3

**COMING EVENTS INCLUDE
LECTURES**

ROBERT C. HERMES

"Between the Tides"

Friday, April 15, 1966

Clayton High School — 8:15 p. m.

Drama by the edge of the sea . . . all manner of sea life and bird life. Here is an in-between world inhabited by creatures of sand, surf and sky—those that never seem quite able to decide which is lovelier, the land or the sea, or where they'd rather be. Thus they live between the tides. Robert C. Hermes of Homestead, Florida, presents it all in color motion pictures.

ROBERT W. DAVISON

"The Vanishing Sea"

Friday, May 6, 1966

Third Baptist Church — 8:15 p. m.

Great Salt Lake is the focal point of a fascinating photographic study of life in and around the Great Basin in Western United States. Among the animals found here are the brine shrimp and pelican, desert kit fox and kangaroo rat, water ouzel and western grebe. The dependence of all life upon water becomes increasingly significant as man's demands upon natural resources grow. Robert W. Davison of Bountiful, Utah, presents a powerful conservation story.

THE AUDUBON WALNUT

Just north of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, stands this fine old black walnut tree which seems to spread out over the first home in America of John James Audubon.



This home, built in 1762, was once owned by John Penn, a descendant of William Penn, and was purchased in 1789 by Jean Audubon, a retired sea captain. In 1804 he turned it over to his son, and it was here that young Audubon studied the area's wildlife and began his life's work of hunting, taxidermy and painting, which resulted in his monumental work, "Birds of America."

IT'S SPRING!

This is the time of year to GROW. You can help the Audubon Society grow by getting a new member this month. Membership in the St. Louis Audubon Society includes membership in National as well. This entitles one to all bulletins and publications issued by National which gives one a look at conservation on a very broad scale. An annual membership at \$8.50 is a bargain.

If you can secure a membership, have the individual make their check for \$8.50 to "St. Louis Audubon Society."

Forward it to Miss Albert Bollinger, Executive Secretary, 5079 Waterman Avenue, St. Louis 8, Missouri. She will retain our portion of the total and remit the balance to National.

Tell your friends the benefits of belonging.



Observations

ST. LOUIS AREA WINTER BIRDS OF 1966

By J. EARL COMFORT

The white-winged crossbill was the best January bird with the discovery credited to Sally Vasse, of Grafton, Ill., on the 10th when 6 of the rare crossbills showed up near the home of her parents in Edwardsville, Ill. Many observers later made a pilgrimage to Edwardsville to enjoy watching these rare birds as they fed on hemlock cones. Dick Anderson also found 2 white-wings in Calvary Cemetery in St. Louis during the same week-end. Another rare member of the finch family was listed by Dick, who found 2 common redpolls at the scene of the whitewing appearance on the 31st.

Pine siskins, also of the finch family, continue to be well above average in numbers.

The rarest species in Feb. was an oldsquaw duck at Portage Des Sioux in St. Charles County, checked by John Willets late in February.

The Earl Haths enjoyed the visit of red-breasted nuthatch at their feeder during February.

There were 2 rare Harlan's hawks near Swan Lake in Calhoun County, Ill. on the 20th of February.

Herring and ring-billed gulls were unusually scarce in the St. Louis Area during January, and February.

A bald eagle count was made by the St. Louis Audubon Society centering on Clarksville, Mo. on Feb. 19th., with another in the Ill. Swan Lake region by the Webster Groves Nature Study Society on the following day. Earl Hath reported the 4 groups at Clarksville netted 158 eagles, including 1 very rare golden. On the next day Earl and others counted 110 balds between Clarksville and Louisiana, Mo.

The Swan territory yielded 88 eagles in addition to the two Harlan's hawks mentioned, according to Dick Anderson, who participated.

The ratio of immature balds was about 25%, indicating a rather poor nesting season during the past few years compared to earlier winters when immatures often outnumbered matures.

Species of ducks showing the greatest numbers above Alton, Ill. in Jan. and Feb. were common goldeneyes, canvasbacks and common mergansers.

There was a great wintering concentration of Canada geese at the August A. Busch Wildlife Area in St. Charles County.

WORKING WITH NATURE

A series of field sessions devoted to practical methods of working with nature will be held at the Arboretum at Gray's Summit. The dates to be announced in the near future. The sessions will be conducted by Louis Brenner and should offer ideas usable in managing natural areas or for a deeper appreciation of nature's wonderful plan.

ADVENTURE IN YUCATAN

The Webster Groves Nature Study Society will sponsor a lecture by G. Michael Flieg, assistant curator in charge of birds at the St. Louis Zoo, May 12, at 8:00 P.M. at the University City Junior High School. His lecture will be on his exciting adventure with the American Quintana Roo expedition into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. He participated in the expedition as an ornithologist on the 100 mile hike which uncovered 1000 year old Maya ruins. There will be a donation of \$1.00 which will be given to the expedition.

They hope to have the University City Junior High Auditorium but has not yet been confirmed. Please call VI 3-5765 for exact location.

SPRING BIRD WALKS OF THE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bird walks are scheduled for Forest Park on the last two Sundays in April and the first two Sundays in May.

Sunday, April 17 Sunday, May 1

Sunday, April 24 Sunday, May 8

Meeting Place: Parking lot behind Art Museum

Time: 7:30 A.M.

Information: Call Chairman of Walks, Martin Schwieg, Jr., FO 1-4226

There will be two Saturday bird walks —

Saturday, April 30

Saturday, May 7

Meeting Place: Tower Grove entrance Missouri Botanical Garden.

Time: 8 A.M.

Tony McColl will be on hand as leader. For information call PR 6-2779. If any changes are made in these plans a card will go out to members.

Eight pair of binoculars will be available on the Forest Park bird walks for the use of individuals needing them.

Annual Spring census will be held on Saturday, May 7th. For information and results call: YO 5-8642. We hope many groups will participate. Phone your results to Earl Hath, YO 5-8642.

AN INVITATION

Members of the St. Louis Audubon Society are invited to attend the 10th annual meeting of the Missouri Chapter of Nature Conservancy, April 30th and May 1st, to be held at the National Council of State Garden Clubs building, 4401 Magnolia Ave.

Dick Anderson and Dave Easterla will start the activities with an early morning bird walk at Shaw's Garden. Meet at main gate at 8:00 a.m.

Speakers at the meeting on Saturday will be Leo Drey of Open Spaces Council; a panel discussion on environmental pollution moderated by Spencer Jones; Father James Mulligan; Dr. Conoyer speaking on the physical Ozarks yesterday and today; Mrs. Fred Mauntel, President of National Council of State Garden Clubs and Fernando Ortiz telling of the rare species of the Galapagos. The dinner meeting will be held at Holiday Inn South with Harley Webster, Director of Nature Conservancy the main speaker.

The program is planned around the theme — "Time For Action." Reservations may be made with Earl Hath, 2109 Briargate Lane, Kirkwood, 63122.

THE OPEN SPACE COUNCIL FOR THE ST. LOUIS REGION

BY LEO A. DREY, PRESIDENT

"Even as our cities grow, the solace of nature is disappearing. Trees and grass, parks and flowers are strangers to an increasing number of young Americans. Pollution is consuming our water and air at a devastating and frightening rate. It is no longer enough that we preserve what we have. We must check the tide and turn it back."

RICHARD N. GOODWIN
Special Assistant to President Johnson

We who live in the St. Louis metropolitan area have indeed inherited a "good piece of geography". With the famed Ozarks at its backdoor, St. Louis remains the proud gateway to the west, though it is no longer a gateway to the green horizons and wide open spaces which were the heritage of the pioneer.

They have vanished, to be replaced by a suburbia that slops across the landscape, mindlessly and planlessly bulldozing natural values into oblivion, while pushing undeveloped lands ever farther out of reach of our children. Only by acting now, at the eleventh hour, can we maintain the influence of the outdoors in our closed-windowed, air-conditioned lives.

Noting that Thoreau has written, "It would be worthwhile if in each town there were a committee appointed to see that the beauty of the town received no detriment", the Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region has been formed to initiate and support efforts to:

Set aside sufficient lands and waters for parks, forest preserves, and recreation purposes;

Control destructive urban development of open country unsuitable for such development;

Protect our natural resources from pollution; and

Support appropriate zoning, and land management that recognizes recreational values.

The Open Space Council has already identified a number of areas in the St. Louis Region which should be preserved in their natural state, and others, like the lower Meramec, which should be developed for intensive recreational use. We are working toward their protection and acquisition, and would welcome the participation of each member of the St. Louis Audubon Society in our activities.

Motivation for joining an organization such as the Audubon Society has as its basis a love of nature and an understanding of the need to preserve wildlife and the natural conditions in which it can thrive. The Open Space Council has as a major aim preservation of wild areas and open space at a time when millions of acres of previously forested and open land are disappearing under heavy population pressure. We are sure you share our belief that certain areas close to the major population centers must be reserved in as near their natural state as possible.

We therefore want to invite you to join the Open Space Council. Regular membership in the Council is \$10, associate \$5, and supporting \$25. Inquiries may be addressed to Open Space Council Board members Earl Hath or Martin Schweig, and checks payable to the Open Space Council

should go to our Treasurer, Byron Schubel, Hillsboro, Missouri.

With your support we may yet preserve some of the bits and pieces of wild land that are left to us within an easy drive of the core of the city, and we do appreciate the opportunity to give you this short outline of our program.

EAGLES – EAGLES – EAGLES and “EAGLERS”

By HENRIETTA H. LAMMERT

In our January Bulletin we mentioned that on Saturday, February 19, the St. Louis Audubon Society would participate in the National Audubon Society's census of the American Bald Eagle.

Under the leadership of Earl Hath we met at 10:00 A.M. at Duvall's Restaurant in Clarksville. Approximately 60 "Birders" were on hand for the census. Under the direction of four local leaders, areas were assigned to four groups. These leaders were Gus Artus of the Missouri Conservation Commission, John Foster of the Fish and Wildlife Service, McCune Dudley and Phil Hancox of Louisiana, Missouri. Approximately 60 miles of the Mississippi River was covered.

Group No. 1, under the leadership of McCune Dudley covered an area from Louisiana, north to Saverton, Missouri, just south of Hannibal. I was in the No. 2 Group under the leadership of Phil Hancox, and we covered the area from Clarksville to Louisiana. Under the leadership of Gus Artus an area was covered from Clarksville south to the Winfield Dam. Under the leadership of John Foster, an area was covered in the new Clarence Cannon Wildlife Refuge, near Annada, Missouri.

Our group saw 38 matures and 18 immatures — a total of 57. McCune Dudley's group had the good fortune to see a Golden Eagle, the only one recorded this day. Altogether, 158 eagles were sighted.

Among those who took part—Earl and Connie Hath, Marge and Nancy Sels, Lynn Schaefer, Catherine Arhos, Bertha Massie, Alberta Bolinger, Dorothea Vogel, Bill Brush, Paul Bauer, David and Mrs. Priwer, Dorothy Seier, Elizabeth McLean, Pollie Schuetz, Norman and Mrs. Parker, Father Mulligan and a group of four students of Biology at St. Louis University, Sally Whittier, Mary Wiese, Faith Plum, Ned and Dean Rogers, Laura Flint, Mary Noble, Mary Frances and Alan Goodloe, Peg Feigley, Beulah Bedell, Frances Pickel, Helen Bowman, Alex and Dorothy Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Seltzer and their father-in-law, Morgan and Amy Day, Bliss and Hugh Lewis, and a group from Illinois.

On Sunday morning, Earl and Connie Hath and I spent a little over two hours and saw 110 Bald Eagles. We also saw 10 male and 3 female Common Mergansers. We saw 2 male Golden Eyes, Field, White Crown and White Throat Sparrows and a Western Meadowlark. We also saw Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, a Carolina Wren, as well as Tufted Titmice, Juncos, Bluebirds and a Red Bellied Woodpecker.

There were many people that we haven't been able to list, due to the confusion that is always brought about by a wonderful "Birding" day.

All in all, it was a great day, and I hope that everybody enjoyed it as much as we did.

We certainly are greatly indebted to McCune, Gus, John and Phil for their expert guidance, knowledge and enthusiasm for making this count possible.



EAGLE WATCHERS
NEAR CLARKSVILLE



ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN
PUBLISHED BY
ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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St. Louis, Mo. 63108
FOrest 7-1404

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9912 Clayton Road

WYdown 3-2222

St. Louis Audubon Society
5079 Waterman Ave.
St. Louis, Mo. 63108

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